



**Site Visit Programmatic Questions
Positive Alternatives 2016
Options Pregnancy Center – May 6, 2016**

1. Update/ Demographic Reporting

- Review your two most recently submitted Update/Demographic Reports: are you meeting Report Count Goals?
Yes, report counts are within appropriate ranges.
- Note any significant differences between the reports: are your programs stable? Improving? What do the reports indicate about progress in your programs?
Programs are well received in the area and will at times experience fluctuations due to staffing and seasonal attendance issues.
- Any questions on the recording of data on either form?
The Director is considering contracting with eKyros an online client records and data collection program but would like to know other directors who may have the program to discuss the benefits of the program.

2. Work Plan

- Review your 2012-16 grant application's description of the program you requested to be funded. Note the services and activities you said you would provide and the number of clients you would serve.
- Please prepare a **short summary of your current program(s) and the number of clients being served.** Address these topics:
 - a. How does what you describe in the application compare with what you are currently providing?
 - b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been added or removed?
 - c. Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?
 - d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

Options Pregnancy Center's grant application was submitted to enhance several of the services provided at our center. Each of these services is still being provided, some with a few modifications.

A portion of the grant is to fund a Client Advocate position at Options Pregnancy Center. The Client Advocate position was vacant for a portion of the third and fourth years causing our client numbers to be slightly lower than anticipated, but with the addition of part-time staff hired to fill this position, we are beginning to see an increase in the number of clients served.

Another part of our grant application was for Alcohol Use/Drug Abuse/Relationship Education. We initially intended to hire a part time Client Advocate to provide this education. We were not able to find a qualified person willing to work for limited hours. We also realized that our clients quickly developed a relationship with their Client Advocate and to have them meet with a different Advocate for certain services might not always be in the clients' best interest. We have merged this part of our services into the regular Client Advocate positions. Training for the Client Advocates in alcohol and drug abuse along with relationship counseling has been on-going. We anticipated serving 5 clients per quarter, but are currently serving more than triple that number.

A Work Readiness Project was also part of our original grant application. This program was designed to give our clients some hands on work experience and coaching on proper work place behaviors using our thrift store as a work station and a part time grant staff person along with our regular staff and volunteers as mentors. We initially anticipated 5 clients per quarter. The program has had some fluctuation in client numbers mostly due to changes in our local economy and a very low unemployment rate. We have begun using some temporary paid positions to further assist our clients in meeting their desire for self-sufficiency. Our Sleep Safely Baby Crib Program – providing our clients with a new crib for attending 6 hours of pregnancy/infant care/parenting information - has been a success from the beginning. This has been well received and supported in the community and by our clients. Our original estimate was to serve 6 clients per quarter. We anticipate distributing 40 cribs to clients who complete the Sleep Safely Program this year.

All of our grant programs experienced a decrease in client participation during a portion of the 4th year. The first month of the final quarter has shown a substantial increase in clients being served, leading us to anticipate meeting and most likely substantially exceeding our goals for all grant programs for the final quarter of the grant cycle.

3. Fiscal Review

- Review of the 2015-16 expenditures spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.
Numbers sent by Ellen Heit were in agreement with the grantees numbers.
- Have you revised your 2015-16 budget justification?
No revision at this time.
- Any questions on your completion of the 2014-16 grant and your budget?
No

4. Do you have any questions on the findings from your **Financial Reconciliation**?

No questions but the suggestions from the reconciliation were appreciated.

5. Grant Closeout Form

- You will have an opportunity to review a draft of the Grant Closeout Form.

6. 2015-16 Evaluation - Due June 10th

- Your 2015-16 Evaluation Plan will be discussed. Any suggestions provided in your 2013-14 Report Summary should be included in the plan, if you are continuing the same evaluation.

Options PC has conducted an evaluation on a nutrition topic. They are measuring the effectiveness of education and information presented on the topic of switching from sugary pops to water. They have done all of their evaluation plan and work in house.

- Any questions on the expectations of the report or your organization's evaluation plan for 2015-16?

Expectations and information were clear.

7. Positive Alternatives website

- The PA website will be reconfigured once contracts are all signed.
- Resources for grantees will remain basically the same.
- WRTK booklet revisions have not yet been completed.

8. Grant Manager Updates

Updates were given on future grant cycle budgets, upcoming PA training webinar dates, first fall meeting for PA grantees, and PA policy updates

9. Issues specific to this grantee

Because of the closing of Elizabeth House this grantee will be receiving any grant funded materials that have not been used when this grant cycle ends. We discussed this situation and the need for services to be provided in this area when Elizabeth House closes.

10. Facility

- If your facility has been remodeled or updated please give an update. Do you have any plans to move your organization to another building in the near future?
- If grant-funded activity areas have been significantly altered, be prepared to discuss.
The grantee has a centrally located center in the heart of the community it serves. It is warm and welcoming. They have no future plans to move but may make some minor renovations to help sound proof counseling rooms.

11. Health Equity is a priority goal at the Minnesota Department of Health. How is your organization addressing this need?

Options PC has tried to promote partnerships with local medical clinics to provide ultrasounds and STD testing available to all clients at no cost. They continue to offer services at no cost while also offering a jobs training program for those who need jobs training.

12. What are the new **unaddressed needs in the communities you serve?**

Topics to address in this community include STD testing and male partners, homelessness and prostitution.

- Do you have a well-developed and up-to-date list of community partners available?
Board members are well connected in this community and have helped tremendously to reach out to local community partners. They work with staff to keep the list up to date and with names of warm referrals.
- Are you able to make warm referrals to any of these partners?

Yes, this grantee is well connected in the community and has the ability to make referrals to known partners in confidence.

13. Clients stories (along with client data collection) are an important component of the work we do. Client stories fill in the gaps that data can't detail and humanize the efforts made by all grantees.

- **Have you submitted your PA funded client stories yet?**

A client story will be forwarded soon.

14. How can MDH be more supportive of your program?

This grantee suggested that this grant program is very supportive and easy to work with.

15. Other?

Options PC is exploring the idea of opening a satellite office in Windom, Minnesota. With the closing of Elizabeth House there will be no available services for this area of southern Minnesota. They would like to open both a center for services similar to what they already offer in Fairmont along with adding a possible thrift store for jobs training. A final decision will be made soon.

Site Visit Date: May 6, 2016

Center: Options Pregnancy Center

Grantee Staff: Bob Charnecki

Positive Alternatives Grant Manager: Mary Ottman